

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 37457 01 OF 02 231737Z  
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W  
-----004496 231740Z /50  
O 231722Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3541

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 37457

NODIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY), FR  
SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: THE CHIRAC PROBLEM

REF: PARIS 37064

1. SINCE WE PREPARED REFTEL EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED  
A FURTHER PROBE FROM CHIRAC'S ENTOURAGE ON QUESTION  
OF POSSIBLE CALL BY THE PRESIDENT ON CHIRAC AT CITY  
HALL. WE HAVE AGAIN REPLIED THAT QUESTION SHOULD  
BE POSED TO THE ELYSEE.

2. IT WAS NEVER LIKELY THAT GISCARD WOULD FAVOR A  
SEPARATE CARTER-CHIRAC MEETING. MORE PLEASANT  
ATMOSPHERE WHICH CHARACTERIZED HIS MEETING WITH  
CHIRAC ON DECEMBER 7, HOWEVER, AND THE FACT THAT ONE  
ELYSEE STAFFER RECENTLY SEEMED TO BE SIGNALLING THAT  
THE ELYSEE MIGHT, AFTER ALL, SEE MERIT IN SOME SORT  
OF CARTER-CHIRAC MEETING, PERHAPS EVEN AT THE CITY  
HALL, SEEMED TO REINTRODUCE A SHADE OF UNCERTAINTY  
INTO THE FRENCH POSITION ON THIS QUESTION.

3. THIS HAS NOW BEEN THOROUGHLY DISPELLED, AT LEAST  
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FOR THE TIME BEING. THE ELYSEE HAS INFORMED US THAT  
THE ISSUE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S CONTACTS WITH THE  
FRENCH MAJORITY LEADERS, INCLUDING CHIRAC, HAS BEEN  
PUT FORMALLY BEFORE GISCARD. HE HAS MADE THE  
FOLLOWING DECISIONS, WHICH FOLLOW PRECISELY HIS  
EARLIER VIEWS MADE KNOWN TO US AND TO DR. BRZEZINSKI  
BY FRANCOIS PONCET.

4. GISCARD WISHES PRESIDENT CARTER TO MEET THE MAJORITY'S LEADERS, INCLUDING CHIRAC, ONLY IN THE SMALL CIRCLE WHICH WILL BE FORMED OVER COFFEE AFTER THE STATE DINNER AT THE TRIANON. THIS MEANS THAT GISCARD NOT ONLY RULES OUT CALL ON CHIRAC AT THE HOTEL DE VILLE--WHICH CHIRAC IS ANGLING FOR--BUT ALSO ANY SEPARATE CALL BY CHIRAC ON PRESIDENT CARTER AT THE MARIGNY OR AT THE EMBASSY RESIDENCE, WHICH MIGHT BE SOUGHT.

5. ELYSEE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS "DECISION" WAS "DEFINITIVE" AND IN GISCARD'S VIEW ABSOLVED US SIDE FROM ANY FURTHER RESPONSIBILITY TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN THIS QUESTION. ANY FURTHER FEELERS FROM CHIRAC'S

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W  
-----004517 231743Z /47

O 231727Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3542

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 37457

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AND TO MAKE SURE THE PRESIDENT'S WISHES ARE CARRIED OUT.

6. COMMENT: GISCARD'S LARGELY PREDICTABLE BUT, FOR ALL THAT, PEEVISH DECISION TO FORECLOSE ANY POSSIBILITY OF A SEPARATE CARTER-CHIRAC MEETING IS BOUND TO BE STRONGLY RESENTED IN THE RPR BECAUSE CHIRAC WOULD BE PUT ON THE SAME PLANE AS THE OTHER LEADERS OF THE MAJORITY, WHO REPRESENT MUCH SMALLER PARTIES. THIS WILL BE THE CASE PARTICULARLY IF A MEETING BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND MITTERRAND DOES MATERIALIZE. THE RPR COULD WELL ACCUSE US IN SUCH A CASE OF TILTING TOWARD THE LEFT (AT LEAST

TOWARDS THE SOCIALISTS) TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE  
LARGEST COMPONENT OF THE MAJORITY.

7. IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT PRECISELY HOW  
CHIRAC WILL REACT WHEN HE LEARNS OF GISCARD'S  
VIEWS. CONCEIVABLY, IN THE INTEREST OF ELECTORAL  
UNITY, HE WILL ACCEPT GISCARD'S SCENARIO. MORE  
LIKELY, THERE WILL BE A NEW BURST OF FIREWORKS  
BETWEEN THE TWO MEN, WHICH COULD RESULT IN  
CHIRAC'S BOYCOTTING THE STATE DINNER FOR THE PRESIDENT  
AND PERHAPS THE VISIT AS A WHOLE. WHILE WE WILL  
PROBABLY NOT BEAR THE BRUNT OF THIS AFFAIR, WHICH IS  
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CLEARLY A PRODUCT OF THE GISCARD-CHIRAC FEUD, WE  
ARE ALSO NOT LIKELY TO REMAIN UNSCATHED. THE OK CORRAL  
IS NO PLACE FOR INNOCENT BYSTANDERS.  
HARTMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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